

# **Cargo and Page Forms: State of the Extensions**

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# Page Forms

- First released in 2007
- Known until 2016 as “Semantic Forms”
- Mostly written by me, though with important contributions by Stephan Gambke and > 30 others.

# Cargo

- First released in 2015
- An alternative to Semantic MediaWiki
- Lets you store, query and browse template data (plus some page data, like date created and full text)

# Brief thoughts on Cargo vs. Semantic MediaWiki

- Cargo uses tables, while SMW uses triples (often stored in tables)
- To the end user, they function pretty much the same – similar set of query formats
- Cargo: easier to set up and maintain, more powerful and faster querying (all in my opinion)
- SMW: better for linked data, more users.

# Recent additions to Page Forms

## (Since 2018)

# Addition #1: support for VisualEditor, TinyMCE

- **VisualEditor**: Wikimedia Foundation's WYSIWYG editor
- **TinyMCE**: WYSIWYG editor extension based on the old BlueSpice extension "VisualEditor"

Both can now be used in any Page Forms textarea.

# VisualEditor in Page Forms

## Create Person: Bob

---

Nationality:

Date of birth:

Early life:

▼

**B**

*I*

A

▼

▼

+

▼

Career:

Paragraph

▼

**B**

*I*

A

▼

▼

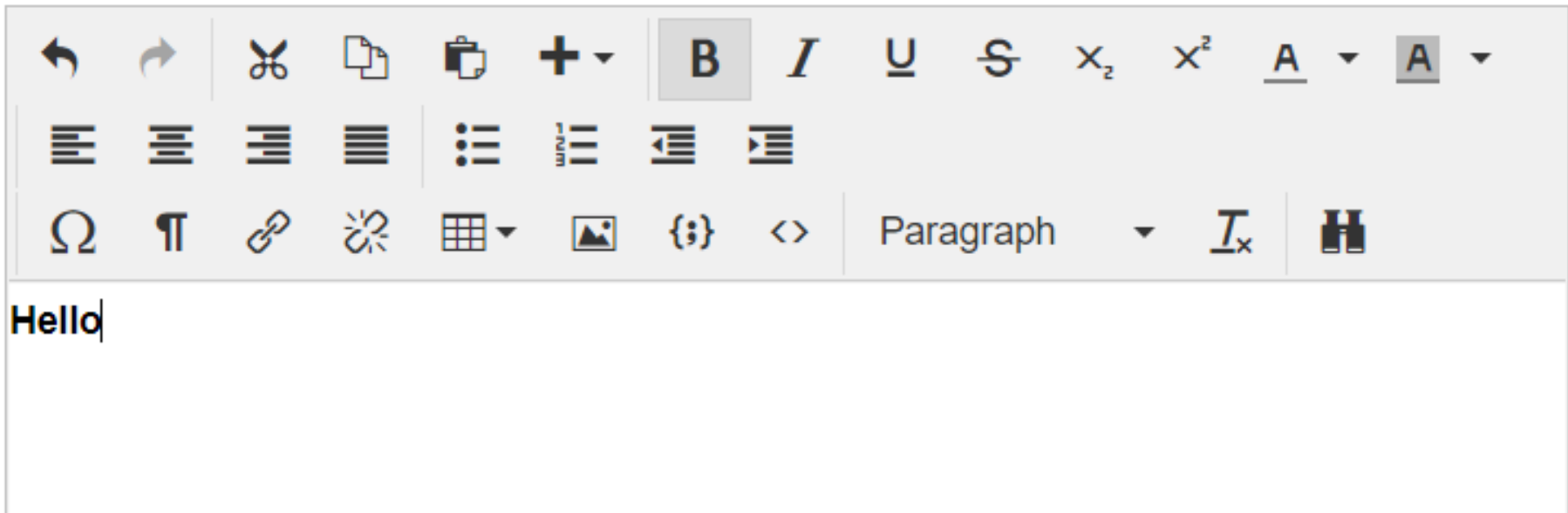
+

▼

Free text:

# TinyMCE in Page Forms

Free text:



Free text:

Hello

# TinyMCE, VisualEditor support requirements

For TinyMCE within textareas:

- TinyMCE extension

For VisualEditor within textareas:

- VisualEditor extension
- VEFoAll extension

# Addition #2:

# Special:MultiPageEdit

## Edit multiple pages

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Select one of the following templates to edit all the pages containing it. New pages can also be created using the selected template.

Showing below up to **50** results in range **#1** to **#50**.

View (previous 50 | [next 50](#)) ([20](#) | [50](#) | [100](#) | [250](#) | [500](#))

1. [A](#)
2. [ABC](#)
3. [Author](#)
4. [City](#)
5. [Country](#)
6. [Employee](#)
7. [Item](#)
8. [Magazine](#)

# Special:MultiPageEdit

## Edit multiple pages for template: Item

Page	author	source	date	url	quote	+
A border solution that's chock-full of holes	Steve Chapman	Chicago Tribune	October 8, 2006	http://www.realclearpolitics.com/articles/2006/10/a_border_solution_that_is_paying_human_smugglers_to_shepherd_them_into_the_United_States_Instead_of_snaring_more_illegal_entrants_we're_now_arresting_fewer."		
A Case for Appeal	The Washington Post editor	The Washington Post	MM: Sep DD: 26 YYYY: 2006	http://www.washingtonpost.com	"The compromise bill strips the courts of	✓✗
A Cease-Fire Reality: Dealing With Syria	Dennis Ross	The Washington Post	7/28/2006	http://www.washingtonpost.com/dyn/content/article/2006/08/16/AR2006081601426.html	"History is littered with well-intentioned efforts to transform Lebanon. If the current effort is to be different, we will need a credible international force	

Pages: 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 ... Next Last 1 of 20

Results to show

# Addition #3: auto-minimizing of multi-instance templates

Opinions for this item

Colombia-United States Free Trade Agreement · Agreement should be ratified · for

↶+ ✕

Peru-United States Free Trade Agreement · Agreement should be ratified · for

↶+ ✕

Topic:

Position:

Stance:

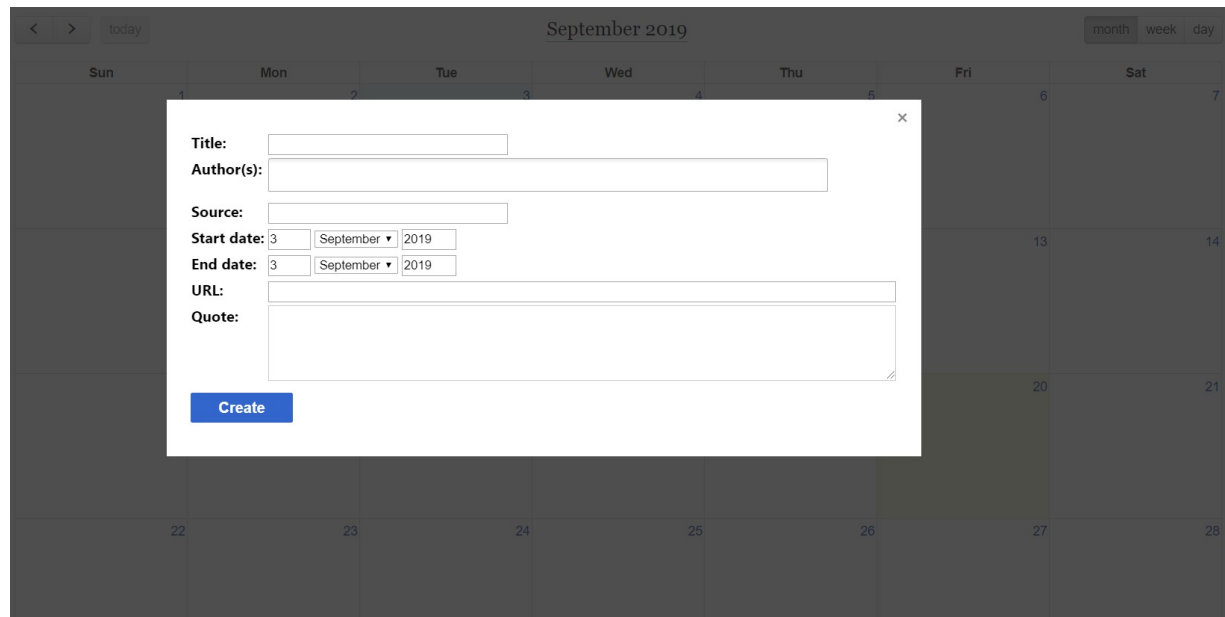
↶+ ✕

Add another

(By default, kicks in at height of 800px)

# Addition #4: editable calendars

Works on multiple-instance templates within a single page – doesn't yet work on multiple pages.



The image shows a web-based calendar interface for September 2019. The calendar grid is visible in the background, showing days from Sunday to Saturday. Overlaid on the calendar is a modal form for creating a new event. The form contains the following fields:

- Title:** A text input field.
- Author(s):** A text input field.
- Source:** A text input field.
- Start date:** A date picker showing 3 September 2019.
- End date:** A date picker showing 3 September 2019.
- URL:** A text input field.
- Quote:** A text area for a quote.

At the bottom of the form is a blue button labeled "Create".

# Recent additions to Cargo

## (Since 2018)

# Addition #1: new data types

- Rating
- Start date (& “Start datetime”)
- End date (& “End datetime”)

Hopefully these are self-explanatory.

SMW could benefit from some of these!

# Addition #2: “Parent tables” within drilldown

Here, users drilling down on the “Opinions” table can also use filters from the “Items” table.

▼ Position:
Colombia-United States Free Trade Agreement / Agreement should be ratified (6)
▼ Stance:
for (6)
Item
▼ Author:
Pete du Pont (1) · Robert J. Samuelson (1) · The Miami Herald editorial board (1) · The Wall Street Journal editorial board (1) · The Washington Post editorial board (1) · USA Today editorial board (1)

# Addition #3: Overhaul of Special:CargoQuery

Looks a little more like Special:Ask now, with autocompletion and format parameter inputs.

## Cargo query

Table(s):	<input type="text" value="Items,"/>
Field(s):	<input type="text" value="ur"/>
Where:	<div><input type="text" value="Items.Source"/> <input type="text" value="Items.URL"/></div>
Join on:	<input type="text"/>
Group by:	<input type="text"/>
Order by:	<input type="text"/> <input type="button" value="ASC"/> <input type="button" value="+"/>
Limit:	<input type="text"/>
Offset:	<input type="text"/>
Format:	<input type="text" value="dynamic table"/>
Rows per page:	<input type="text"/>
Hidden fields:	<input type="text"/>

# Special thanks to Google

**Google Summer of Code:** a program that pays students around the world to work on open source projects.

Responsible for 3.5 of the 6 new features mentioned before.

My overriding goal:

**Automate** as much as possible  
of the display, forms, browsing  
and visualization based on the  
declared data structure.

# Next planned task for that: “Automatic forms”

- It may not be necessary to create a form definition in order to have form-based editing.
- Maybe forms can be generated on the fly, just based on template definitions.
- If this can be done well for even 50% of forms, that would be great.

# Previous attempt

- There was an extension that did this, called “Automatic Semantic Forms”
- Part of “SMW+”, with no involvement from me
- Limited functionality

Perhaps now the software is  
ready for this kind of  
automation.

Some of the previously-  
mentioned features can help.

# Example #1

- If Cargo table “Ingredient rows” has parent table “Recipes”, then the form for the “Recipe” template should include “Ingredient row” as a multiple-instance template.

# Example #2

- If a multiple-instance template contains fields of type “Date”, “Start date”, etc., there should be a calendar interface to edit it.

# Cargo vs. SMW

- “Automatic forms” may be easier to implement with Cargo than SMW, because in Cargo the data structure is explicitly declared.
- Can still be done with SMW, though.
- SMW used to have a parser function called `#declare` – makes sense to bring it back?

Questions/comments